

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 01899 242102 Z

63

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 L-03

NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 STR-08 CEA-02 NIC-01

SAJ-01 AGR-20 RSR-01 /204 W
----- 021598

R 242000 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9500

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1899

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD PFOR GT UR

SUBJECT: SUGAR SALES TO SOVIET UNION

1. SOVIET VESSEL IVANMSKVIN CALLED AT ATLANTIC PORT OF SANTO TOMAS APRIL 17, DRAWING SOME NEWSPAPER PUBLICITY AND POINTING UP FACT THAT GUATEMALA IS EXPORTING SUGAR TO SOVIET UNION. ARTICLE IN LA TARDE CALLS SHIPMENT FIRST COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA TO DEVELOP FROM VISIT OF MIXED GUATEMALAN COMMISSION TO MOSCOW IN 1971. ACCORDING TO SUGAR ASSOCIATION MANAGER BELLAMY, HOWEVER, SIMILAR SHIPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN PAST YEARS. TOTAL SHIPPED SO FAR THIS YEAR IS 15,000 TONS, WORTH MORE THAN \$3 MILLION.

2. SALES DO NOT SHOW UP IN GOG TRADE FIGURES BECAUSE SUGAR EXPORTERS CONTRACT SALES INITIALLY TO MAJOR BROKERS IN NEW YORK. RIGHTS TO SUGAR MAY CHANGE HANDS SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE REACHING FINAL PURCHASERS

,
WITH GUATEMALANS UNAWARE OF FINAL DESTINATION UNTIL ACTUAL DELIVERY IS REQUESTED. SALE TO SOVIETS WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS MANNER AND DID NOT RESULT FROM DIRECT SOVIET- GUATEMALAN CONTACTS.

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3. ACCORDING TO BELLAMY, SOVIET VESSEL WAS ALMOST REFUSED ENTRY TO SANTO TOMAS. AFTER ASSOCIATION RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM SEVERAL MINISTERS, INCLUDING ECONOMY AND GOVERNMENT THAT ENTRY WOULD BE PERMITTED, MINDEFENSE AT LAST MOMENT DENIED AUTHORIZATION AND SUGAR ASSOCIATION HAD TO APPEAL DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT ARANA, WHO GRANTED PERMISSION FOR VESSEL TO LOAD.
BOWDLER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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SECSTATE WASHDC INFO MOSCOW
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